

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. *(Currently Amended)*: An information recording and playback apparatus comprising:

an information recording and playback section which records information on a recording medium, and plays back prestored information from a recording medium;

a communications control section which sets operation information based on an instruction provided directly from a user in a mail format that is supplied from the outside, the operation information including an operation starting time, an operation ending time, an indicated channel number or a designated recording source, an indicated image quality, and an indicated sound quality;

a memory section which stores the operation information;

a timer section which operates and terminates the information recording and playback section ~~[at a predetermined operation starting time, and stops the information recording and playback section at a predetermined operation ending time]~~, in accordance with the operation information by referring to the memory section;

~~[a memory section which holds operation information of the timer section;~~

~~a communications control section which inputs and sets the operation starting time and the operation ending time to the timer section from outside;]~~

a main-power internally-controllable switch, which always constantly energizes to the timer section, and selectively energizes to the information recording and playback section and the communications control section by external operation or management of the timer section;

a radio clock section which receives a standard value used for time correction of the timer section from the outside; and

a main control section which controls operations of the information recording and playback section, the timer section, the main-power internally-controllable switch and the radio clock receiving section, with reference to the operation starting time and the operation ending time supplied through the communications control section.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended): [An] The ~~[information recording and playback]~~ apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the communications control section ~~acquiring~~ acquires the operation information ~~[corresponding to the operation starting time and the operation ending time of the timer section]~~ by receiving, when a main power is turned on by control ~~by~~ of the timer section, an instruction supplied in mail form from the outside.

4. (Currently Amended): [An] The ~~[information recording and playback]~~ apparatus according to claim 3,

wherein the main power ~~being~~ is turned on by control of the timer section at the time of starting a main power to correct the time of the timer section by the radio clock section.

5. (Currently Amended): [An] The ~~[information recording and playback]~~ apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the communications control section ~~acquiring~~ acquires the operation information ~~[corresponding to the operation starting time and the operation ending time of the timer section]~~ by receiving, if a main power is turned on by control ~~by~~ of the timer section and the information recording and playback section is being operated, an instruction supplied in mail form from the outside when the operation of the information recording and playback section has been completed.

6. (Currently Amended) [An] The ~~[information recording and playback]~~ apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the communications control section ~~writing~~ stores the operation information ~~[of the timer section]~~ into the memory section, by turning on the main-power internally-controllable switch, if an instruction supplied in mail form from the outside in the state where a main power is off by control ~~by~~ of the timer section includes an instruction to turn on the main-power internally-controllable switch.

7.-14. (Cancelled).

15. (New): An information recording and playback apparatus comprising:

- an information recording and playback section which records information on a recording medium, and plays back prestored information from a recording medium;
- a communications control section which sets operation information based on an instruction provided directly from a user in a mail format that is supplied from the outside, the operation information including an operation starting time, an operation ending time, an indicated channel number or a designated recording source, an indicated image quality, and an indicated sound quality;
- a memory section which stores the operation information;
- a timer section which operates and terminates the information recording and playback section, in accordance with the operation information, by referring to the memory section;
- a main-power internally-controllable switch, which constantly energizes to the timer section, and selectively energizes to the information recording and playback section and the communications control section by external operation or management of the timer section;
- a radio clock section which receives a standard value used for time correction of the timer section from the outside; and
- a main control section which controls operations of the information recording and playback section, the timer section, the main-power internally-controllable switch, with reference to the operation starting time and the operation ending time supplied through the communications control section,

wherein the communications control section acquires the operation information by receiving, if a main power is turned on by control by the timer section and the information recording and playback section is being operated, an instruction supplied in mail form from the outside when the operation of the information recording and playback section has been completed.

16. (New): An information recording and playback apparatus comprising:

- an information recording and playback section which records information on a recording medium, and plays back prestored information from a recording medium;
- a communications control section which sets operation information based on an instruction provided directly from a user in a mail format that is supplied from the outside,

the operation information including an operation starting time, an operation ending time, an indicated channel number or a designated recording source, an indicated image quality, and an indicated sound quality;

a memory section which stores the operation information;

a timer section which operates and terminates the information recording and playback section, in accordance with the operation information, by referring to the memory section;

a main-power internally-controllable switch, which always energizes to the timer section, and selectively energizes to the information recording and playback section and the communications control section by external operation or management of the timer section;

a radio clock section which receives a standard value used for time correction of the timer section from the outside; and

a main control section which controls operations of the information recording and playback section, the timer section, the main-power internally-controllable switch, with reference to the operation starting time and the operation ending time supplied through the communications control section,

wherein the communications control section acquires the operation information by receiving, if a main power is turned on by control by the timer section and the information recording and playback section is being operated, an instruction supplied in mail form from the outside when the operation of the information recording and playback section has been completed, and

the communications control section writes the operation information into the memory section, by turning on the main-power internally-controllable switch, if an instruction supplied in mail form from the outside in the state where a main power is off by control by the timer section includes an instruction to turn on the main-power internally-controllable switch.